

## REMARKS

At page 2 of the Examiner's Answer mailed January 19, 2007, the Office canceled claims 2-5, 7-11, 13, 15-17, 19-24, 27, and 29-35 under the rationale that because Applicant did not identify these claims as under appeal, the Applicant withdrew the appeal of these dependent claims. While the Applicant disagrees and asserts that no such withdrawal was made or intended, the claim listing provided above reflects the canceled status of these claims in view of the Office's remarks. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the premature cancellation of these dependent claims.

In this amendment, claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice to advance the present application. The cancellation of claim 1 does not serve as a disclaimer as to the subject matter of claim 1 for purposes of a continuation application or a request for continued examination.

The Examiner's Answer identifies claims 12, 26, and 26 as allowable and the only contended claim (claim 1) has been canceled to advance the present application. Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-0441.

Respectfully submitted,

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March 19, 2007  
Date